

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05912 092141 Z

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ACTION SIL-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8225

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

UNCLAS PARIS 5912

E. O. 1652: N/ A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN VISIT PARIS, MARCH 8

1. ICFTU SECRETARY KERSTEN ON ONE- DAY VISIT PARIS MARCH 8 MET WITH FORCE OUVRIERE CONFEDERAL BUREAU. VISIT ALSO INCLUDED CALL ON UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL AND LUNCHEON WITH SELECT GROUP OF LABOR JOURNALISTS. SPEAKING TO PRESS, KERSTEN IDENTIFIED TWO CURRENT ICFTU PREOCCUPATIONS:

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PAGE 02 PARIS 05912 092141 Z

(A) NONETARY CRISIS AND ITS POSSIBLE EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS. KERSTEN DENOUNCED SPECULATION OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS AS FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO CRISIS AND SAID SUCH TRANSFERS OF FUNDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO STRICT CONTROL.

(B) MULTINATIONAL FIRMS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ACTION NOW OBJECT OF SPECIAL STUDY BY ICFTU. DIFFICULTIES ARISE FROM NATIONAL LEGISLATION (UK, GERMAN, SCANDINAVIAN) WHICH PROHIBIT SOLIDARITY STRIKES.

2. KERSTEN FURTHER AFFIRMED THAT NATIONALIZATION NOT A VALID SOLUTION TO WORKER- MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. ICFTU BELIEVES DEMOCRACY DOES NOT STOP AT FACTORY GATE. DEMOCRATIZATION MAY FIND PATTERN IN GERMAN MODEL OF " CONGESTION." WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH OTHER TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS, KERSTEN SAID THAT NO RAPPROCHEMENT WITH WFTU POSSIBLE " SO LONG AS ITS LEADERS HAVE NOT DEMONSTRATED REAL ATTACHMENT TO DEMOCRACY, AND HAVE NOT DENOUNCED REACTIONARY CZECH COMMUNISTS WHO ARE NOT ALLOWING ANY TRADE UNION ACTIVITY."

3. FURTHER TO KERSTEN' S REMARKS RE. MONETARY CRISIS, FORCE OUVRIERE' S BERGERON TOLD PRESS HE HAD RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM MEANY ON SUGGESTION THAT FO AND AFL- CIO MEET TO COORDINATE VIEWS ON MONETARY CRISIS.

4 IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, KERSTEN RECOUNTED ABOVE, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MEETING WITH FO CONFEDERAL BUREAU. KERSTEN SAID HE LEFT MEETING CONVINCED THAT ADMISSIONS OF NEW MEMBERS BY ETUC SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF UNANIMITY RATHER THAN MAJORITY VOTE.

(COMMENT: THIS SUGGESTS THAT FO' S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ANTICIPATED CFDT APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP WAS DISCUSSED AT MEETING.) KERSTEN ALSO USED OCCASION TO EXPRESS TO LABATT HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT MEANY' S MIAMI STATEMENT THAT ICFTU IS " USELESS ORGANIZATION." KERSTEN SAID THIS REMARK UNDERMINES THE ONLY FREE INTERNATIONAL LABOR GROUP. KUBISCH

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